



WHITTIER WILDCAT NEWS November 2017

November Events

- 3 LIF Friday-1:35 Dismissal
- 3 Popcorn Friday
- 6 Hi Cap Info Mtg 7pm in Library
- 10 Veteran's Day Holiday
No School
- Scholastic Book Fair Week**
11/13-11/17
- 15 Picture retakes
- 16 Book Fair Family Night
- 17 LIF Friday-1:35 Dismissal
- 17 Popcorn Friday
- 22 Early Release—12:20 pm
- 23-24 Thanksgiving Break**



December Events

- 1 LIF Friday - 1:35 Dismissal
- 1 Popcorn Friday
- 8 LIF Friday- 1:35 Dismissal
- 12 Holiday Concert @
Civic Auditorium 6:30 pm
- 15 LIF Friday-1:30 Dismissal
- 15 Popcorn Friday
- Winter Break**
December 18th-January 1st



From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to November! Thank you to our amazing Whittier PTA for their hard work in organizing our annual Harvest Festival Oktoberfest which will take place tonight, Thursday, October 26 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Whittier's cafeteria and gym. This is one of our most popular events of the year so we hope to see students, families, and staff there. Students may wear non-scary costumes and enjoy games, Oktoberfest activities, a pumpkin raffle, the cake walk, and more. It will be great fun for the entire family! Thank you to everyone involved who has helped in planning and organizing this event to make it happen. It's a great way to finish the month of October.

I would like to welcome all families to attend our Veterans Day assemblies that are scheduled for Wednesday, November 8 at 8:55 a.m. for third through fifth grade students and 9:45 a.m. for kindergarten through second grade students. Whittier would also like to honor and recognize family members of students who have served or who are currently serving in the military by having students complete a "Wall of Honor" Star to honor their family member(s). Stars were distributed to all students last week, but you can also pick up additional stars in the office or from the Whittier website at <https://www.everettsd.org/Domain/32>. Please drop off returned stars to the office so they can be placed on the "Wall of Honor" in the office display case.

Whittier teachers are currently involved in focused technology professional development this school year to prepare them to incorporate computer devices into curriculum and instruction, support authentic student learning, and create rigorous digital learning opportunities. The training is focused on engaging students with technology as a learning tool that also requires students to use the important skills of critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration with peers as part of the learning process. Teachers will attend 3 full day learning sessions this school year and then thanks to 2016 bond and capital levy funding, every classroom teacher will receive their own Chromebook cart to start the 2018-19 school year. This will allow every student at Whittier to have 1:1 technology device learning opportunities, but more importantly it will provide equitable access to technology for each Whittier student.

As the season of giving thanks and the beginning of our winter weather arrives, I hope you can all find the time to stop and reflect on the many wonderful things in our lives. Here at Whittier I am very thankful to be able to work with our dedicated, kind, caring, and passionate staff to help every child succeed. I am also thankful that you have chosen to bring your children to Whittier. It is our goal and responsibility to teach, inspire, and prepare your children to do great things with their lives.

I want to thank all of our parents and guardians for the love and support you give your children at home. I appreciate the work you do with your children to support them academically and in supporting them to become kind and caring individuals. Your support makes a significant difference in their success at Whittier. Thank you for everything you do!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Season and stay happy and healthy. Make it a great November!

Tony Wentworth, Principal

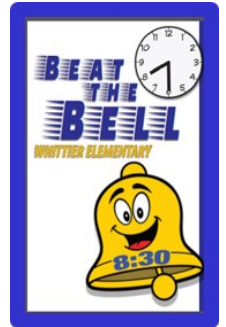
Save the Date!! Holiday Concert is December 12th!



This is an event you will want to share with the entire family! The holiday season will be brightened with the sound of our Whittier students singing some of their favorite Holiday tunes. Whittier students will participate in our annual holiday concert at Civic Auditorium on Tuesday, December 12th at 6:30 pm. There is no charge for this fantastic event and no tickets are needed! The auditorium holds 1800 people so invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Everyone is welcome!

THE IMPACT OF TARDINESS ON SCHOOL SUCCESS

Schools stress the need for students to get to school and class on time and with good reason. Studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Education on truancy, which is connected with tardiness, show that school attendance is a major factor when it comes to school success and student behavior.



Problems with Tardiness

The most crucial learning hours of a school day are the morning hours, because they are when students are most attentive. Students who are tardy miss the beginning of their morning classes, and they also cause a distraction when they arrive late to class.

Academics and Achievement

Students who are frequently tardy have lower GPAs, lower scores on standardized assessments, and lower graduation rates. Chronic tardiness in elementary and middle school is also linked to failure in high school.

Behavior Problems

In the National Center for Education Statistics 2007 Indicators of School Crime and Safety, teachers surveyed reported that students who are frequently tardy have higher rates of suspension and other disciplinary measures. Tardiness causes students to feel disconnected with school, leading to behavior problems and dropouts.

Job Performance

Students who are frequently tardy to school are also more apt to be fired from a job for showing up late.

Effect on Others

Tardiness also takes other students' attention away from a teacher's lesson, leading to more behavior problems and missed instruction.

Beat the Bell! Every minute at Whittier matters!

Please contact us if you'd like to have your student on a **Beat the Bell Incentive Contract** in order to reduce chronic tardies and absenteeism. Please contact Donna Kapustka, Assistant Principal at 425.385.4391 or dkapustka@everettsd.org

PTA President's Message



Hello Whittier Families!

I hope you are having a great fall season and are able to get out and join us for another fun Harvest Festival. A very special thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the event happen.

Don't forget Book Fair the week of November 13th - 17th. Please remember to stop by the library sometime that week to check it out, or come visit us during Family night Thursday the 16th from 6:00-7:30pm.

There are still plenty of opportunities to get involved in PTA activities, please contact our volunteer coordinator at whittiervc@gmail.com, and make sure to complete your background check with the school district at :

<https://www.everettsd.org/volunteer>.

Chell Black
Whittier PTA President

Guess What's Growing

We have an exciting new garden in the courtyard and it's called the "Guess What's Growing" garden. We have planted something in the garden and we would like everyone to try and guess what it is. Starting next month we will have our first clue. Please stop by and see what is growing! The class that guesses correctly will win a prize. If more than one class guesses correctly then we will put their names in a hat and draw the winner. Stay tuned and have fun!!



"Within Reach" Reflections Art Contest

"Within Reach" is the theme for the 2017-18 National PTA Reflections Art Contest. Whittier artists have been busy painting, drawing, composing music and taking beautiful photographs for this year's contest. All entries are due in the Whittier office by **Thursday, November 9th** so it's not too late to grab your camera, paint brush, or instrument and start creating! All artwork will be displayed in the hallway outside of the cafeteria. Please come by and view all of the great work. For more information, and contest details, go to <https://www.pta.org/reflections>.

Fundraising Results are in!!

Thank you for participating in this year's Big Kahuna fundraiser. Our goal was to sell \$30,000 and we surpassed that goal, selling over \$30,502!

The Gifts & Cookie Dough will be delivered on **Tuesday, November 7th**. Please make arrangements to pick-up your fundraiser between 2:15-5:30 pm on this day. We **do not** have a way to store the cookie dough so please plan accordingly. If you have any questions, please contact Shanna Erickson at shannaerickson2406@gmail.com or 206-931-8468. Thank you again for your participation in this most successful event!

Scholastic Book fair is at Whittier through Friday!

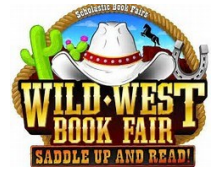
Wild West Book Fair...Saddle up and READ!

Our Scholastic Book Fair is an exciting reading event that brings a wonderful selection of fun, engaging, and affordable books that kids want to read straight to Whittier! We are lucky enough to have two Scholastic Book Fairs planned for the 2016-17 school year. The first is happening *during the second week of November*.

When: November 13th-17th

Where: The Library

- Before school 8-8:30
- During all lunches
- After school 2:50-3:20



If you work during the day and can't get to the fair, we are open special evening hours on **Family Night**, Thursday November 16th from 6:00-7:30pm.

If none of those times works for you please visit the "Online Book Fair" by going to the Scholastic website between 11/1 and 11/17:

Scholastic.com/fair

All Book Fair proceeds benefit Whittier's library. Did you know that fundraising through Book Fairs is the main way that our library gets money for new books? Providing books for the library ensures that all Whittier students have access to new books.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Book Fair, please Mrs. Bailey in the Library!

EHS Food Drive

Community Food Drive

Whittier Elementary is once again partnering with Everett High School in their annual Thanksgiving food drive to benefit over 150 local families. We want this year to be **BIGGER** and **BETTER** than ever - with **YOUR** help we can make it happen!

We invite you and your students to support this amazing community project and ask that your students collect non-perishable items beginning November 2nd. On Monday, November 20th Everett High School students will come to Whittier and pick up the mountains of food we collect! If you would like to make a monetary donation, please see Marci Cooper in the office. All money donated will buy fresh turkeys for local families.

Everett High Leadership students will provide a cupcake party to the Whittier classroom that brings in the highest number of items. Last year EHS supported over 150 local families in our community, supplying them with two weeks supply of non-perishable food! Please help support this very worthy cause.



Student Pick-Up & Drop off

Whittier is experiencing severe traffic congestion in the parking lot before and after school on a daily basis. We are asking that you please follow the directional arrows in the parking lot and only drop your students at the **"Stop & Drop"** zone. This will keep traffic moving and everybody on time!

School buses and program vans need access to the parking lot to ensure the safe drop-off & pick-up of students. Please **do not park in the fire lane or leave your vehicle unattended at any time**. This is a safety issue.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Nov. 13-17 is American Education Week

American Education Week gives Americans a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. Read more about the [creation and history behind American Education Week](#) online.



The mobile app is here!

Everett Public Schools just launched a mobile app to make it easier for parents and students to connect with their schools. Download the free app for easy access to:

- grades and test scores
- staff directory
- bus route information
- checked out library items
- school and district calendars
- communications preferences
- attendance and class schedules
- customized social media stream and much more!



Go to the district [communications webpage](#) for more information or download the “Everett Public Schools” app from your phone’s app store. We’re excited to put this information in the palm of your hand.

Tips to help kids and parents in digital age

The Daily Herald shared an article from *The Washington Post* about things you can do at home to help keep your kids safe and healthy in a digital world:

<http://bit.ly/1RWx3if>.

Find out what Everett Public Schools students learn about digital citizenship on the [district technology website](#).

Capital projects updates

The district is hard at work on many projects approved by voters in April 2016. In September, staff rolled out computing devices to five schools as part of the district’s first phase of its 1:1 technology initiative. Students at Everett and Sequoia high schools and Garfield, Lowell and Monroe elementary schools now have individual access to technology. The rollout will continue to supply devices and training to several schools each year until all schools are 1:1.

See other capital projects updates on the [district website](#).

Accepting Highly Capable nominations

Find forms and more information and evening information events on the [Highly Capable website](#). Nominations are for students currently in grades one through four for winter testing, which will take place in January 2018.

Remember to Vote November 7, 2017



Bond and levy planning

Enrollment in Everett Public Schools is up and grew to about 19,900 students this fall. Snohomish County is the second fastest growing county in the state and Everett Public Schools continues to experience the highest growth in the county. Many district schools are already at or above capacity and 115 portables have been added to school sites over the years to help address growth. Growth will continue across the region in the coming years, and the district will grow by more than 1,600 students by 2026.

The need for additional schools and classroom space to manage this growth is critical, especially at the high school level. Without a new high school, enrollment at Jackson High School will exceed 2,300 students by 2021 and 30 portables will be required by 2026.

The board is also considering a Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy to renew the four-year levy that expires in 2018. The state does not fully fund education, and the levy would provide funding for educational programs and resources to support student learning, including Special education, before- and after-school programs and interventions, safety and security, athletics and activities.

Additional information is available on the [district website](#). The board is expected to make a decision at its Nov. 21 meeting.

Providing Information to Children after Traumatic World Events

Jen Gutzmer, MA, LMHCA; Pediatric Bereavement Specialist

Providence Hospice & Home Care of Snohomish County

When sudden, traumatic, and shocking events occur in the world, we may be unsure of how to share information with children. There may be questions about what to share, how much is age-appropriate, and how to answer the inevitable questions that will follow.

Why should I share this information with my child?

By sharing information with your child, you are able to help define facts, answer questions, and assist your child in coping with the knowledge of the events that have transpired. You continue to demonstrate that you are a trusted source of information and that you are available to discuss even the most difficult of things. Your child is also reminded that although they may have heard the news through school, social media, or other sources, that you believe it is important enough to have a direct conversation with them about it.

Where do I begin?

It can be overwhelming to know where to begin when a sudden event has occurred. As adults, we often struggle with the events that have taken place, so it makes sense that it would be challenging to translate this into age-appropriate information. The first place to begin is with yourself. Take a moment to process what has happened and to feel the feelings associated with that. You might feel angry, sad, fearful, confused, or worried. Give yourself the time to take care of yourself in the moment and to get extra support if you need it.

What do I tell my child?

When determining what to share with your child or teen, consider what you believe he or she needs to know. This will likely be specific facts of what occurred, such as the location, the event, the result, and what is happening right now. Each of these can be tailored to your child's age.

Example: *“You might have heard about this before already, but I want to tell you what I know and then try to answer the questions you have. Today we learned that there was a sad, unexpected event in [place]. While all of the information is unclear at this time and the authorities continue to learn more, we do know that [facts of the event]. Unfortunately that means that [impact of the event, such as injuries or fatalities]. Right now, there is an investigation happening and [how those impacted are being helped].”*

Remember that you do not need to know everything to provide information to your child. Because there is often much speculation and uncertainty around sudden events, consider reminding your child that while there is some information now, more information will be learned more over the coming days.

After sharing the facts, what do I say?

After providing your child with the factual information, assure your child that while more information is being gathered about the event there are safety plans and precautions in place to help protect those impacted. It is also helpful to assure your child about the ways that you and other important people help to protect your local community.

Ask your child what further questions they have. This allows your child to set the pace for additional information that they believe they need to know. It is possible you might not know the answers to their questions, and it is okay to say so. Ask your child if it would feel helpful to talk about the events again when you know more information. Respect your child's decisions and remind them how they can get support when they need it.

Now what?

Continue to serve as a role model to your child for how to respond to these events. This may mean being open about your own feelings about the event and encouraging your child to share with you about their feelings. Model ways of caring for yourself and help your child to do the same. Consider limiting exposure to media coverage of the events and instead keep an open dialogue available for your child.

What resources are available to my child and family?

Providence Hospice & Home Care of Snohomish County

(425) 261-4807

Providence Hospice of Seattle: Safe Crossings

(206) 320-4000

Providence Sound Home Care and Hospice

(360) 493-5928

National Child Traumatic Stress Network

www.nctsn.org

**UPCOMING HIGHLY CAPABLE INFORMATION NIGHTS
AND
HIGHLY CAPABLE NOMINATION PROCESS**

Highly Capable Referrals are being accepted **Monday, October 23 through Thursday, December 1**. If you would like to have your child considered for testing, you can obtain a "Parent Nomination/Permission Packet" from your school office, by visiting the Everett Public Schools website at www.everettsd.org/Page/6668, by visiting the Highly Capable Office located at 3900 Broadway or by calling 425-385-4033.

Signed Parent Nomination/Permission forms must be returned to the school office or the Highly Capable Office by Friday, December 1, in order for your child to be given the assessments in January. Test results will be mailed by mid-April.

You are invited to attend a Highly Capable Parent Information Night (for new parents only) at one of the locations listed below. This is an opportunity to learn about the tests that will be administered, to hear about the Highly Capable program and ask any questions. Childcare will be provided.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| <u>Monday, November 6:</u> | Whittier Elementary Library | 7:00 - 8:00 pm |
| <u>Tuesday, November 14:</u> | Penny Creek Elementary Cafeteria | 7:00 - 8:00 pm |
| <u>Thursday, November 16:</u> | Emerson Elementary Cafeteria | 7:00 - 8:00 pm |
| <u>Monday, November 21:</u> | Silver Lake Elementary Library | 7:00 - 8:00 pm |

(In case of inclement weather, check the Everett Public Schools website (<http://www.everett.k12.wa.us/everett>))



November 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 LIF 1:35 Dismissal Bricks 4 Kids	4
5 Daylight Savings	6 Boeing Science Club Smart w/Art	7 Spanish Club French Club	8	9 Veteran's Day Assembly 8:50 am	10 No School Veteran's Day 	11
12	13 Boeing Science Club Smart w/Art	14 Spanish Club French Club	15 Picture Retakes PTA Meeting 7 pm	16	17 LIF 1:35 Dismissal Bricks 4 Kids	18
19	20 Boeing Science Club Smart w/Art	21 Spanish Club French Club	22 12:20 Dismissal	23 	24 No School	25
26	27	28 Spanish Club French Club	29	30	Dec 1 LIF 1:35 Dismissal Bricks 4 Kids	2

Everett Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are:

Affirmative Action Office – Carol Stolz, cstolz@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106
Title IX Officer – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104
504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063
ADA Coordinator – Becky Clifford, bclifford@everettsd.org, 425-385-5250
 Address: 3900 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201